

there are those who feel they must come to the floor and, amidst partisan vitriol and venom, misrepresent what was done for the Nation's veterans. Because, Mr. Speaker, I too have the honor and privilege of serving on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and it is time for some facts.

President Reagan said, "Facts are stubborn things." It is important for my friend from California and all those who would lampoon and lambast this budget to understand this: An additional \$1 billion was added for the Nation's veterans. \$1,000 million, \$1 billion, was added for our Nation's veterans. That is a fact.

The sad fact is the President of the United States came to the well of this House a few months ago and in the span of 77 minutes made over 80 promises, but he failed to answer to the call of the Nation's vets. That is why a version of his budget today received only a handful of votes.

And I would just hope, Mr. Speaker, that my friends on the minority who say they want to help veterans will extend that help to young men and women in the service now, giving them the proper equipment and training.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Is it appropriate when announcing the orders of the day to provide certain editorial comments?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is not appropriate.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

Is it appropriate when the gentleman makes remarks on the floor that they read the budget with—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will advise the Member that the gentleman is not stating a point of order.

AUTHORIZING SPEAKER, MAJORITY LEADER, AND MINORITY LEADER TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS AUTHORIZED BY LAW OR BY THE HOUSE NOTWITHSTANDING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Monday, April 12, 1999, the Speaker, majority leader and minority leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1999

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that business in order under the calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, April 14, 1999.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the special order by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

NATIONAL HOLIDAY TO HONOR A NONVIOLENT FIGHT FOR JUSTICE; THE LIFE OF CESAR CHAVEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, a number of us are rising this evening to commemorate the birthday next week of Cesar Chavez, a great national hero whose March 31 birthday we believe should be recognized as a national holiday.

This Nation and the world lost a great civil rights leader nearly 6 years ago when Chavez died after a tireless struggle for social change. March 31 is a State holiday in my State of California; and countless schools, roads, libraries, and other public institutions have been named after Cesar Chavez. It is now time that the entire Nation honor his enduring legacy with a Federal holiday.

From humble beginnings in 1927 on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona, Cesar Chavez rose to be a major force in American history, leading millions of people to better lives, inspired by his message of a nonviolent fight for peace and justice.

As the son of migrant farm workers, he knew well the oppression these hard-working laborers faced. Influenced by the writings of Ghandi and

other proponents of nonviolence, he began to register his fellow farm workers to vote and then to educate them about their rights to a safe workplace and a just wage.

In 1962, Cesar Chavez and his family founded the National Farm Workers Association, which organized thousands of farm workers to confront one of the most powerful industries in our Nation. He inspired them to join together and nonviolently demand safe and fair working conditions.

□ 1945

Through the use of a grape boycott, he was able to secure the first union contracts for farm workers in the United States. These contracts provided farm workers with the basic services that most workers take for granted, services such as clean drinking water and sanitary facilities. Because of Cesar Chavez' fight to enforce child labor laws, farm workers could also be certain that their children would not be working side by side with them and would instead attend the migrant schools that he helped to establish. In addition, Cesar Chavez made the world aware of the exposure to dangerous chemicals that farm workers, in fact all consumers, face every day.

But his influence extended beyond agriculture. He worked in urban areas, organized voter registration drives, brought complaints against mistreatment by governmental agencies. He taught community members how to deal with governmental, school and financial institutions and empowered many to seek further advancement in education and politics. There are countless stories of judges, engineers, lawyers, teachers, religious leaders, I might add Congressmen and other hardworking professionals who credit Cesar Chavez as the inspiring force in their lives.

During a time of great social upheaval, he was sought out by groups from all walks of life and religions to help bring calm with his nonviolent practices. Our country's leaders joined with Cesar literally and often figuratively in prayer and in acts of solidarity in his many fasts for justice. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sent Chavez a message on the occasion of his first fast. Dr. King told Chavez, "Our separate struggles are really one, a struggle for freedom, for dignity and for humanity."

It is that struggle that earned him the admiration and respect of millions of Americans, including those of this Congressman and other of our colleagues who will join us tonight. We represent a fraction of the cosponsors of House Joint Resolution 22, which would commemorate Chavez' birthday and his legacy with a Federal holiday.

I am proud that hundreds of people from the area I represent, San Diego, joined the thousands of people, in fact

over 50,000, who came in caravans from Florida to California to attend the funeral of this national giant which was held near the United Farm Workers headquarters in Delano, California.

We in Congress must join them in their reverence and must make certain that the movement Cesar Chavez began and the timeless lessons of justice and fairness he taught be preserved and honored in our national conscience. To make sure these fundamental principles are never forgotten, I urge my colleagues to support House Joint Resolution 22, which would declare March 31 a Federal holiday in honor of Cesar Chavez. In his words, in the words of the United Farm Workers, *si, se puede*, yes, we can.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Cesar Chavez not only because he was one of the great leaders of our country, but also because he was my friend. He was a man of courage, faith and love who shared his great strength with thousands and inspired millions of Americans.

To know Cesar was to stand in awe of the enormous task he set for himself and the great moral leadership he gave to the campaign to challenge injustice and achieve peaceful change.

His struggle for oppressed farmworkers fired our conscience. He insisted that this nation acknowledge that every human being, regardless of origin, is of worth and is entitled to reach for a better tomorrow.

What made Cesar Chavez larger than life was that he lived the principles of truth and courage he preached. He knew what it was like to be treated without respect, to work all day, everyday, with little to show for it. A lesser man might have burned up with anger. But what burned inside Cesar Chavez was a love of justice.

Cesar's struggle for justice is far from over and we must continue to help others help themselves.

In Congress, still today, there are bills that would bring foreign guestworkers into our fields. The growers still want cheap labor from foreign workers without those pesky rights won by the sweat and tears of Cesar and Dolores Huerta and Arturo Rodriguez and hundreds of others.

Cesar helped us see through the eyes of farmworkers—and what they saw was a dark and hopeless world. But under his leadership, farmworkers began to see a new world, one of strength and hope, united against poverty and exploitation. Under UFW contracts, they won higher pay and for the first time—health coverage and pension benefits.

This is how the legacy of Cesar Chavez was born—and we will never let it die!

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING KIDNEY DONORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced a resolution to rec-

ognize the generous contribution made by each living kidney donor to save a life and to acknowledge the advances in medical technology that have enabled living kidney transplantation to become a viable treatment option for an increasing number of individuals needing kidney transplant.

Since 1989, over 250,000 Americans have lost their lives to kidney failure. In 1996, some 250,000 patients were treated for end stage renal disease. An additional 73,000 began treatment for the first time. Of those new patients, nearly half were persons with diabetes. Also in 1996, over 12,000 kidneys were transplanted in the United States. Thirty percent of these organs came from living donors.

Over the last 10 years, the number of patients on the waiting list for a kidney transplant has almost tripled, from 14,000 to over 40,000. In 1988, the number of kidney donations made it possible to provide transplants to almost half the number of patients waiting for a kidney. Because the numbers on the waiting list have grown more quickly than the supply of organs, today only about a quarter will benefit from a transplant.

While the annual number of cadaveric kidneys available for transplant has increased only about 40 percent over the last 10 years, the number of living donors has increased over 100 percent. From the period 1985 to 1994, the 10-year survival rate for dialysis patients was just 10 percent. Survival rates for patients with cadaveric kidney transplants jumped to 55 percent. And for those who received a kidney from a living family member, fully 75 percent would have the chance to live 10 additional years.

Thirty-three of my colleagues have expressed their support for this resolution by signing on as cosponsors. I invite other interested Members of the House to recognize living kidney donors by signing on to this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, just a week or so ago, I received a phone call from former Senator Jake Garn of Utah who served in the other body with great honor and distinction for many years. He called in support of this resolution because he as a father donated a kidney to one of his daughters, and she has lived very well over the last few years despite having some complications from diabetes and other diseases. She has recently undergone additional kidney repair and is hanging in there today as we speak.

The point is that Senator Garn and others are due great recognition for their commitment to their families, for their commitment to good health and for their self-sacrifice to make sure that others can live and have kidney transplants. Senator Garn is a wonderful example of many other people who donate kidneys in this United States.

I also urge the Committee on Commerce as it considers this resolution to

take up this resolution at the earliest possible time to give hope to people who are in need of kidney transplantation.

This budget resolution which we passed today, I also want to add, makes due consideration for increases in biomedical research for the National Institutes of Health. As a cochairman of the Diabetes Caucus along with former Representative Elizabeth Furse from Oregon, now the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE), we have over 240 members of this House who have signed on to the Diabetes Caucus and who are supportive of diabetes research through NIH but also supportive of cancer research, Alzheimer's research, multiple sclerosis research, polycystic kidney disease research and many other diseases that are going to be cured in our lifetimes, in the very near future, by increased funding for the National Institutes of Health and the perpetuation of basic research to help cure disease and make life better for all of us as we age and go through health problems of our own or health problems that our families may have.

I commend this House for passing this budget resolution, giving the Committee on Appropriations adequate flexibility to address National Institutes of Health. I hope that people will get involved in this resolution that I have introduced to recognize kidney donors.

GUN SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I do identify with the comments of my colleague, a livable community where our families are healthy.

I wanted to reference just for a moment a concern about the health of American families. One-third of a century ago, the automobile was the focus of our concern. Ralph Nader published a famous book on "Safe At Any Speed," and this Congress, the Federal Government, the industry, embarked upon an aggressive program to make the automobile safer. As a result of extensive data collection, reengineering, legal regulation and, of course, the automobile for years has been personalized so it could only be operated by somebody authorized to use it, today we have seen spectacular increases in automobile safety and a reduction in deaths despite the fact that miles traveled have exploded.

Today, in many communities, gun violence is now surpassing the automobile as the major source of accidental death. Today, I sponsored a forum on Capitol Hill with three leading experts to deal with gun violence. For every 90 minutes in this country, another child dies. The evidence was